DON NOTTOLI SUPERVISOR, FIFTH DISTRICT (916) 440-5465 FAX (916) 440-7593

JUL 3 0 1997



CHAIRMAN BOARD OF SUPERVISORS COUNTY OF SACRAMENTO

700 H STREET, SUITE 2450 • SACRAMENTO, CA 95814

July 28, 1997

Mr. Lester Snow **CALFED Bay-Delta Program** 1416 Ninth Street, Suite 1155 Sacramento, CA 95814

Dear Mr. Snow:

I am pleased to provide this letter of support for a grant proposal to be submitted by The Nature Conservancy and several partners to assist them with the future development of the Cosumnes River Preserve.

As you likely know, Sacramento County is part of the cooperative effort which encompasses the Cosumnes River Preserve, as well as a property owner within the boundaries of the Preserve. The Cosumnes River Preserve offers a variety of programs benefiting the community including wildlife habitat, educational and recreational programs and farmland preservation, in addition to contributing to the local economy.

Your favorable consideration of this grant proposal would be appreciated and would assist in furthering the efforts of the Cosumnes River Preserve.

Sincerely,

Don Nottoli, Supervisor

Fifth District

DN:sv



Northern Califorma Area Office 1330 21st Street, Suite 103 Sacramento, California 95814 TEL 916 449-2850 FAX 916 448-3469 California Regional Office 201 Mission Street San Francisco, California 94105 1EL 415 777-0487 FAX 415 777-0244

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Willow Slough Pedestrian Bridge Interpretive Program

I. Executive Summary

a. Project title: Willow Slough Pedestrian Bridge Interpretive Program

Applicant: The Nature Conservancy

b. Project description and primary biological/ecological objectives

The Nature Conservancy requests \$26,800 for development, design, fabrication, and installation of an interpretive program for the Willow Slough Pedestrian Bridge in the Cosumnes River Preserve. The construction of the bridge itself is the subject of a separate proposal from the Bureau of Land Management.

The proposal is to design, fabricate and install interpretive panels along the proposed Willow Slough Pedestrian Bridge. The exhibits will expand on the existing Cosumnes River Preserve Visitor Center interpretive displays, providing an interpretive opportunity emphasizing the tidal system of the Bay-Delta, the Preserve's ongoing habitat restoration efforts, the importance of exotic species control, and the significance of protecting floodplain and foraging habitat. This project will help convey key CALFED messages to thousands of schoolchildren, members of the local community and the general public, as well as to the large number of elected officials and decision makers who visit the Preserve each year.

c. Approach/tasks/schedule

We propose to hire Sea Reach, Ltd., a design and fabrication firm, for the design, production, and installation of interpretive panels. Depending on award date and availability of funds, design will begin in fall 1997 and the panels will be installed in summer 1998. We propose a sole-source award to Sea Reach because of the firm's prior experience designing and fabricating the interpretive program for the Cosumnes River Preserve Visitor Center and the importance of having new exhibits that are compatible with those existing exhibits. If the sole-source justification provided is not satisfactory, The Nature Conservancy proposes to competitively bid this project in compliance with CALFED and State of California procedures.

d. Justification for project and funding by CALFED

The project will greatly enhance the value of the Cosumnes River Preserve as an educational site. The project will advance awareness of the CALFED Bay-Delta Program and provide long-term indirect support for dealing with significant stressors identified by CALFED. Because of the proximity of the Preserve Visitor Center to the State Capitol and the large number of visits by official delegations and policy groups to the Preserve, this installation will have considerable impact.

e. Budget costs and third-party impacts

Total request is for \$26,800 for interpretive program design, fabrication, and installation, plus Nature Conservancy overhead. There are no known adverse third-party impacts.

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f. Applicant qualifications

The Nature Conservancy has extensive experience in designing interpretive materials to support educational objectives for both school-age groups and the general public. The Nature Conservancy staff worked with Sea Reach on the initial design, fabrication, and installation of the interpretive elements of the Visitor Center, both for the initial installation and for the replacement of the exhibits following a December 1995 fire that destroyed the center.

Sea Reach, Ltd. has built a strong reputation interpreting the natural world for a variety of projects, including planning and design work at the Alaska State Museum and production of tactile exhibits at Olympic National Park in Washington State.

g. Monitoring and data evaluation

The Nature Conservancy tracks teacher and student participation in the educational program and monitors visitor use of the Preserve. Use of the pedestrian bridge will be monitored in conjunction with these ongoing programs. The reporting needs of CALFED will be defined as part of the funding agreement for this project.

h. Local support/coordination with other programs/compatibility with CALFED objectives

The Preserve's Visitor Center receives extensive use by the public and specialized groups. The Nature Conservancy's educational program has a high level of support within the schools and the local community (see letters). This project furthers CALFED objectives by strengthening relationships with key gateway communities (Galt, Elk Grove, Sacramento) and by providing new and enhanced interpretive and educational opportunities associated with restoration of key Delta habitats.

II. Title Page

a. Title of project: Willow Slough Pedestrian Bridge Interpretive Panels

b. Applicant:

The Nature Conservancy

Cosumnes River Project 13501 Franklin Blvd.

Galt, CA 95632

contact: Sarah Blanchette, Cosumnes River Preserve Outreach Coordinator

phone 916) 683 1700; fax (916) 683 1702

e-mail: <crp@ns.net>

c. Type of organization and tax status:

The Nature Conservancy is a District of Columbia non-profit corporation with 501(c)(3) tax-exempt status.

d. Tax identification number: 53-0242652

e. Technical and financial contact person(s), address, phone/fax/e-mail (if different from above)

Same as above.

f. Participants/collaborators:

This is a collaborative project with The Nature Conservancy and the other Cosumnes River Preserve partners (Sacramento County, California Department of Fish and Game, California Department of Water Resources, U.S. Bureau of Land Management, Ducks Unlimited).

g. RFP project goup type: Other services

III. Project Description

a. Project Description and Approach

The Nature Conservancy proposes to hire Sea Reach, Ltd. to design, fabricate, and install interpretive panels along the proposed Willow Slough Pedestrian Bridge (Figure 1). Implementation of this proposal is contingent upon the funding of bridge construction which is the subject of another Category III proposal being submitted by the Bureau of Land Management. The proposed bridge will cross a tidal slough, connecting the Cosumnes River Preserve Visitor Center to the existing Willow Slough Nature Trail.

This project will enhance and expand the existing educational program at the Cosumnes River Preserve by providing an interpretive opportunity concentrated on the tidal system of the Bay-Delta. Visitors to the Preserve include the general public, thousands of schoolchildren and their teachers who participate every year in the Preserve's educational program, and a large number of tour groups, including local, state, and federal elected officials and others interested in CALFED-related programs and policies.

The interpretive panels will be located at the two "gathering places" along the bridge (Figure 2), three panels at each gathering place. Each panel will measure approximately 24" x 42". The panels will provide in-depth interpretation of the Bay-Delta system and will focus on how activities at the preserve are helping meet key CALFED ecosystem restoration objectives. Specifically, the panels will describe the importance of

- protecting and restoring floodplain and foraging habitats for the fish, waterfowl, and terrestrial species.
- the Preserve's ongoing restoration efforts.
- exotic species control.

Figure 3 provides a sample of a bridge-mount interpretive display previously designed and fabricated by Sea Reach, Ltd.

Key stakeholders will be involved in the development of interpretive themes. These include teachers from the local school districts, science curriculum specialists, county Office of Education science specialists, and a California Department of Education Environmental Education program consultant. The design team will also include a California Department of Water Resources water education specialist, a California Department of Fish and Game interpretive services supervisor, the Sacramento Regional Water Forum water education program consultant, and CALFED staff. Our intent is to sponsor a half-day design workshop soon after a funding agreement is executed.

Depending on award date and availability of funds, design will begin in fall 1997 and installation will take place in summer 1998.

b. Location and/or geographic boundaries of project

The proposed pedestrian bridge will span Willow Slough from the Cosumnes River Preserve Visitor Center to the existing Willow Slough Trail, and the proposed panels will be located at the two "gathering places" along the bridge (Figure 2). The Visitor Center is located on Franklin Boulevard, south of Twin Cities Road, in southern Sacramento County. Willow Slough is a tidal arm of the lower Cosumnes River. At the proposed point of crossing, the Slough features heavy native vegetation (predominately buttonbush, willow, and oak). Figure 1 depicts the location of

III-1

the Visitor Center and proposed bridge on the Cosumnes River Preserve. Figure 2 is a site diagram for the Visitor Center, bridge, and trail.

c. Expected benefits

The proposed Willow Slough Pedestrian Bridge and interpretive panels are an integral part of the master plan for the Cosumnes River Preserve Visitor Center. The panels will improve the quality of the visitor's experience; provide explicit opportunities for interpretation and education related to the Bay-Delta system, the role of tidal estuaries and wetlands, and the value of floodplain habitats for the fishery and aquatic mammals; and enhance the effectiveness of The Nature Conservancy's educational program on the Preserve. Secondary benefits include the potential for visitors to feel that they can actually "make a difference" by volunteering for an ecosystem restoration project at the Preserve, at a local creek, or in their own watershed. This will have both immediate and long-term value for indirectly meeting CALFED's objectives as they relate to stressors, priority species, and habitats.

Although these are not direct ecosystem benefits, this project (in conjunction with similar activities elsewhere) is integral to the long-term success of the Bay-Delta program. It will aid in developing public support and understanding of ecosystem management principles, the potentials of ecosystem restoration, and the key role of natural factors like flooding and tidal action. The Visitor Center-Willow Slough site, when fully functioning with the addition of the bridge, will communicate the message that intelligent cooperative action can save natural habitat. This message is particularly needed in this geographic context — close to the State Capitol, midway between the urban centers of Stockton and Sacramento, and just a few miles off Interstate 5.

d. Background and biological/technical justification

The Cosumnes River Preserve partners believe that the success of ecosystem management in the long term requires educating those who will be responsible for the future of our natural heritage: our children. Toward this end, The Nature Conservancy, in conjunction with the Preserve partners, has developed a model environmental education program at the Cosumnes River Preserve. Several thousand schoolchildren visit the Preserve as a part of this program each year, and many more participate independently in teacher-initiated visits.

The Cosumnes River Preserve curriculum emphasizes interpretive themes specific to the Central Valley and central to CALFED, such as the importance of natural flooding and the uniqueness of the Cosumnes River as the last undammed river in the Central Valley. On the site, the students record observations about the natural environment along our nature trails, view the Visitor Center interpretive exhibits, and in limited cases, participate in hands-on restoration by planting native trees. Such lessons will help connect them to their natural world and engender a personal investment in protecting the Valley's natural values.

By building awareness and appreciation of the Bay-Delta system, visitors will have a clear understanding of (1) the profound importance of protecting the Delta ecosystem; (2) their connection to and stake in the long-term health of the Bay-Delta system; and (3) their role in solving the Delta's problems — for example, by ecosystem restoration, water conservation, control of exotics, and so on.

III-2

e. Proposed Scope of Work

The Nature Conservancy will contract with Sea Reach, Ltd. to design, fabricate and install interpretive panels. We propose a sole-source award to Sea Reach because of the firm's prior experience designing and fabricating the interpretive program for the Cosumnes River Preserve Visitor Center and the importance of having new exhibits that are compatible with those existing exhibits. If the sole-source justification provided is not satisfactory, The Nature Conservancy proposes to competitively bid this project in compliance with CALFED and State of California procedures. The Nature Conservancy will prepare and execute a contract, inspect and review construction; arrange for progress payments pursuant to the contract; conduct a final inspection, accept product, and arrange for final payment.

f. Monitoring and data evaluation

School group and other public use of the Willow Slough Pedestrian Bridge will be recorded as part of the ongoing monitoring of use of the Preserve and reported to the granting agency. The Preserve's Outreach Manager will be responsible for this monitoring and reporting.

g. Implementability

Implementation of this project is contingent upon construction of the Willow Slough Pedestrian Bridge, which is the subject of a separate proposal by the BLM for CALFED Category III funds. There are no other barriers to implementation.

IV. Costs and Schedules to Implement Proposed Project

a. Budget costs

Project Phase and Task	Direct Labor Hours	Direct Salary and Benefits	Overhead Labor (General, admin and fee)	Service Contracts	Miscellaneous and other Direct Costs	Total Cost
Design and Fabrication	70	\$1500.00	\$300.00	\$25,000		\$26,800

b. Schedule milestones

Phase One, design will begin fall 1997, followed by fabrication during spring and summer 1998, culminating in installation in summer 1998.

c. Third-party impacts

No anticipated third-party impacts.

V. Applicant Qualifications

Sarah Blanchette, Cosumnes River Preserve Outreach Program Manager, will cover administrative and project management roles. Sarah graduated from U.C. Davis with a B.S. degree and a major in biological sciences. She has worked for The Nature Conservancy for seven years. During her tenure with the Conservancy, Sarah has developed the Preserve's educational curriculum and recruited a dependable core of volunteer naturalists to guide interpretive tours. She is a member of the National Association of Interpretation.

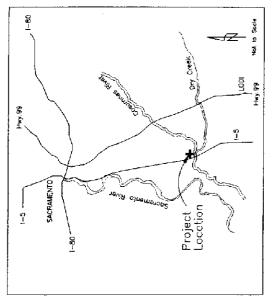
We will invite a diverse group of experts to participate in brainstorming the design phase: key teachers from the local school districts, education science specialists from Sacramento and San Joaquin Counties, a consultant from the California Department of Education Environmental Education Program, a water education specialist from the California Department of Water Resources, the interpretive services supervisor of the California Department of Fish and Game, and CALFED staff. The participants will bring to the workshop wide expertise in science, biology, and communication.

Sea Reach, Ltd. has built a strong reputation interpreting the natural world for a variety of projects, including planning and design work at the Alaska State Museum, publications in the U.S. Forest Service documentation "Design Guide for Universal Access to Outdoor Recreation," and tactile exhibits at Olympic National Park in Washington State. Sea Reach has become an established supplier of interpretive design and fabrication services to a wide range of businesses, industries, and government agencies. Their work designing and producing the Cosumnes River Preserve's exhibits is strong evidence of their commitment to excellence.

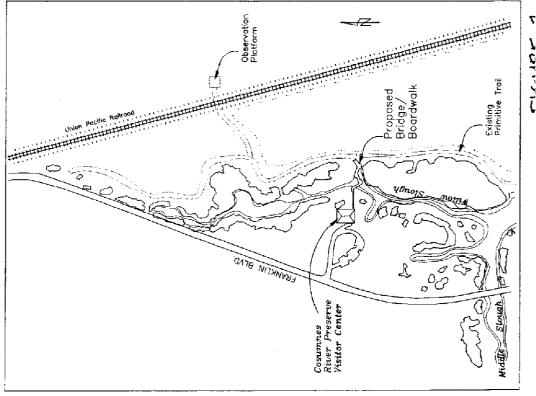
VI. Compliance with Standard Terms and Conditions:

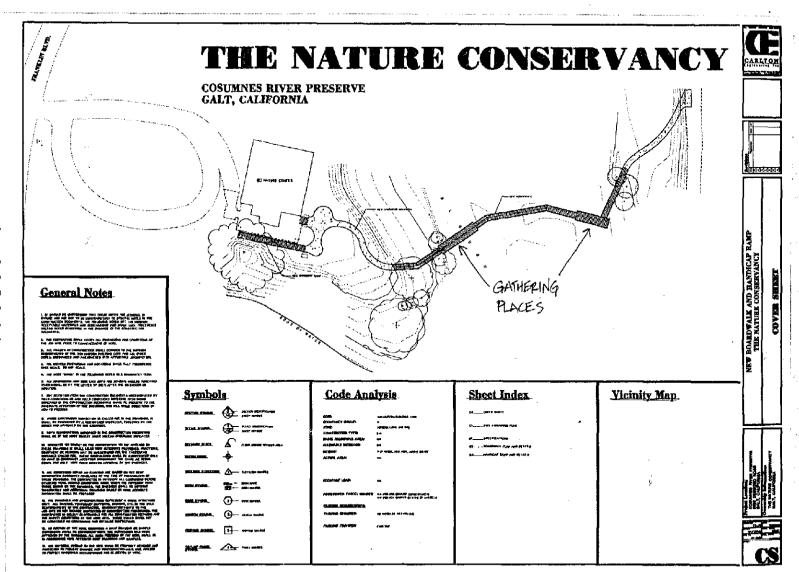
The applicants acknowledge the requirement of the Standard Clauses for service and consultant service contracts for \$5,000 and over with nonpublic entities (Item 2), as described in the Terms and Conditions of the 1997 Category III Request for Proposal.

The Nondiscrimination Compliance Statement form is attached, as required under the Terms and Conditions of the 1997 Category III Request for Proposal.







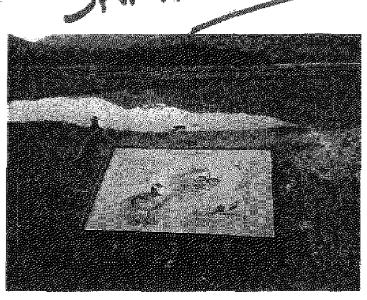


SOME A FIGURE 2

INTERPRETIVE PANELS

Client: Mëndenhall State Wildlife Refoge Alaska Department of Fish and Wildlife Juneau, Alaska 1993

Outdoor interpretive panels describe the estuary and associated flora and fauna. Topics include bird identification, Pacific migration, intertidal invertebrate identification, the role of the Mendenhall Glacier in the estuary, and others. The project includes fen 21 X 31 fiberglass panels framed in pedestal style mounts. The panels are installed along a one mile nature trail.



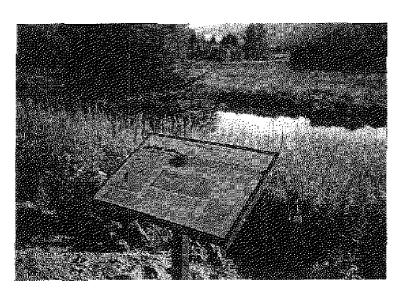


Figure 2

Sea Reach Ltd • PO Box 112 • Rose Lodge, OR 97372 • (541) 994-6903 phone • (541) 994-6393 fax

NONDISCRIMINATION COMPLIANCE STATEMENT

THE NATURE CONSERV	ANCY, 201 Mission	St., 4th Floor,	San Francisco,	CA 94105

The company named above (hereinafter referred to as "prospective contractor") hereby certifies, unless specifically exempted, compliance with Government Code Section 12990 (a-f) and California Code of Regulations, Title 2, Division 4, Chapter 5 in matters relating to reporting requirements and the development, implementation and maintenance of a Nondiscrimination Program. Prospective contractor agrees not to unlawfully discriminate, harass or allow harassment against any employee or applicant for employment because of sex, race, color, ancestry, religious creed, national origin, disability (including HIV and AIDS), medical condition (cancer), age, marital status, denial of family and medical care leave and denial of pregnancy disability leave.

CERTIFICATION

I, the official named below, hereby swear that I am duly authorized to legally bind the prospective contractor to the above described certification. I am fully aware that this certification, executed on the date and in the county below, is made under penalty of perjury under the laws of the State of California.

Steve McCornick OFFICIALS NAME 7/24/97		
The Manual	EXECUTED IN THE COUNTY OF San Francisco	
Regional Director, Vice President	-	
The Nature Conservancy		
PROSPECTIVE CONTRACTOR'S LEGAL BUSINESS NAME		



July 23, 1997

Mr. Lester Snow CALFED Bay-Delta Program 1416 Ninth Street, Suite 1155 Sacramento, CA 95814

Dear Mr. Snow.

The purpose of this letter is to urge your strongest consideration for the proposals submitted by several non-profit organizations and government agencies to expand the Cosumnes River Preserve and for management, visitor-serving, and restoration projects on the Preserve.

As the community closet to the Preserve, Galt benefits directly from the activities of the Preserve. These benefits include opportunities for schoolchildren and teachers, for recreation, and for farmland and open space preservation. Galt also benefits indirectly from the Preserve, since people visiting the Preserve are likely to use the restaurants and hotels in Galt and purchase any needed retail items in Galt.

As a community at the gateway to the Delta, we are excited about your programs and their long term potential for establishing linkages involving education and business activities in Galt.

Sincerely,

Christina H. De La Cruz Mayor, City of Galt

CHDLC\ac

c: Galt City Council
Jerry L. Glenn, Interim City Manager

380 Civic Drive Galt, California 95632 (209) 745-9153 City Clerk's Office Fax (209) 745-92973



Galt Joint Union School District

July 18, 1997

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Director of Educational Services
JERRY KEEN

Director of Curriculum KAREN SCHAUER

District Office 21 C Street Gart, CA 95632 (209) 745-2911 FAX Number (209) 745-9687

Business Office (209) 745-1055 FAX Number (209) 745-7747

Educational Services (209) 745-5456 FAX Number (209) 745-5458

Schools
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A. Boblies-Williams, Principal

RIVER OAKS ELEMENTARY
Judy Bullard, Principal

VALLEY OAKS ELEMENTARY Ida Denler, Principal

MARENGO RANCH ELEM. Jaent Handley, Principal

VERNON E. GREER MIDDLE Bill Maffel, Principal

Lester Snow CALFED 1416 Ninth Street, Suite 1155 Sacramento, CA 95814

Dear Mr. Snow:

The Galt Joint Union Elementary School District has been involved with the Cosumnes River Preserve for the last two years. We have worked closely with Sara Blanchette and the interpretative staff to provide ongoing training for school staff, field trip opportunities for our K - 8 students and opportunities for parents and other community members to visit and actually participate in preservation activities.

Our involvement is a true partnership! Literally hundreds of children from our community and school staff have helped with preservation projects at the preserve while, at the same time, receiving exciting hands-on learning experiences that can only be provided in such a natural setting.

The Cosumnes River Preserve is a very special place. Its impact on the education of our children has been significant. We support their request for funding for a bridge connecting Willow Slough trail and the Visitor Center as well as additional interpretive displays - such modification will only enhance the many opportunities currently available to our community.

Sincerely,

Jeffery T. Jennings, Ed.D. District Superintendent

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FAIRSITE SCHOOL



July 18, 1997

Lester Snow CALFED 1416 Ninth Street, Suite 1155 Sacramento, CA 95814

Dear Mr. Snow,

I am writing this letter to support the proposal for installing interpretive panels along the bridge connecting the Cosumnes River Preserve Visitor Center and the Willow Slough Nature Trail. As a teacher who regularly brings elementary school students to the Preserve, I look forward to using these displays to reinforce concepts taught in the classroom and studied on our field trips.

The fall and spring visits to the Cosumnes River Preserve are an integral part of the fourth grade environmental education program at Fairsite School. Each site visit includes interpretation along the trails and a restoration project. These activities focus on major themes related to our science curriculum. Last fall students enthusiastically gathered and planted acorns in the morning; then with the help of preserve staff and volunteers explored the oak ripartan forest. This field trip led to further discussions and study of how humans interact with the environment. It also fostered other community involvement projects during the year.

These panels will help illustrate the value of the tidal estuaries and wetlands as important wildlife habitat and as an integral part of the Bay-Delta ecosystem. The installation of the these panels will augment the spectacular displays already in place at the Visitor Center and enhance the trail experience for all who come to the Cosumnes River Preserve to enjoy the unique natural communities.

Sincerely.

John Durand,

Fourth Grade Teacher

(209) 745-1546 Office • (209) 745-2506 Preschool • 902 Caroline Street. • Galt, California 95632

BUILDING A BRIGHT



July 17, 1997

Mr. Lester Snow CALFED 1416 Ninth Street, Suite 1155 Sacramento, CA 95814

Dear Mr. Snow,

For the last several years, the Cosumnes River Preserve has partnered with our elementary achool district to extend meaningful learning beyond classroom walls. The partnership has benefitted adults and children through varying outdoor experiences involving restoration projects and the Willow Slough Nature Trail. During the 1996-97 school year, 39 GJUESD teachers received training to serve as Apprentice Naturalists to work with the Preserve in exciting restoration projects. Twenty-four field trips followed the training through funding provided by the Nature Conservancy. Sarah Blanchette and other Preserve staff members have inspired educators and parents to recognize and act in preserving natural habitat environments.

Children and adults have gained an increasing understanding about the impact of habitat loss and the importance of the Cosumnes River as the last undamned river flowing from the Sierra to the Central Valley. In addition, field trip experiences and staff development for all GJUESD learners have strengthened science conceptual understanding and fostered the application of mathematics and language arts skills through hands-on learning. Environmental literacy is moving beyond words through this important learning partnership that is growing within our district and community.

We believe learning opportunities would be greatly enhanced through the construction of a bridge connecting the Willow Stough Nature trail and the Visitor Center with interpretative displays. The Cosumnes River Preserve continues to demonstrate the value of partnership in helping us understand the care and action needed to sustain valuable habitats. We strongly advocate your support in funding this structure to serve Galt's children and numerous visitors beyond our City who visit the Preserve.

Sincerely,

Karen Schauer Director of Curriculum

Faren Schauer

Galt Joint Union Elementary School District 21 C Street • Galt, CA 95632 • 209-745-2911 • 209-745-9687 FAX

Jeff T. Jennings, District Superintendent . James Bauler, Assistant Superintendent of Business Services

BOARD OF TRUSTEES: Ervin Hatzenbuhler • Tina Skinner • Donna Fluty • Donald Nottoli • Valerie Johnston